

## DP 2009 Wetland Pilot Project FTE

- Three year federal grant received to develop two assessment tools to track wetland gains and losses. The Clean Water Act requires one-for-one replacement of wetlands filled or otherwise impacted during development activities.
- Knowing where existing wetlands are, and where replacement candidate wetlands are, is a major obstacle for developers, highway departments, and local governments
- The assessment tools developed with the grant monies will directly aid Montana developers and local governments to identify impacted and replacement wetlands in a timely and efficient manner
- The requested general funds, about \$18,000 a year, provide the required federal match for the grant monies
- Montana is one of the states with the least developed coverage of existing wetlands. The state is only about 25% mapped by the National wetland Inventory
- The grant will develop tools to help complete that mapping effort, as well as making a database of inventoried wetlands accessible online to developers and local governments
- Seeking current level status for one modified FTE, because the three year grant is expected to lead to a permanent development grant for ongoing inventory update and maintenance